

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Os et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,304). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention is related to an apparatus for fast image fetching and processing and a method thereof, wherein the apparatus comprises a host computer having a buffer, a driver, a control key configuration file, and an application program associated with said control key configuration file; a scanner and an output unit and so on. The host computer of this invention has the buffer to save the image data in advance, and then the host computer loads the application program later for processing, that will bring an advantage at least to transmit the image data much smoothly than before, because the image data is usually requested very large, such as several megabits. (See claim 1 and page 4, lines 10-17 of the specification). Os et al. only states pressing the specified button to initiate a related operation, and does not introduce the buffer like the present invention. It also lacks the advantage to transmit the image data smoothly.

Furthermore, the host computer of this invention has control key configuration file in response to every function keys for operations individually, such as scan, print, fax, e-mail, OCR, or copy and so on. The different function key is related to the different control key configuration file as well. The control key configuration file is an adjustable format to a designer and to a user (decided by the designer). That is, a designer or a user can be easier to maintain the control key configuration files according to every function keys for doing specified process. Os et al. only discloses a concept to process the image by several buttons on the button panel and fails to disclose any control key configuration file for maintenance purpose improved.

Due to the above reasons, the apparatus of this invention stated in claim 1 is patentable to overcome Os et al. Dependent claims 2-7, and 9-10 are patentable over the applied reference for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 as well as on its own merits.

According to the same reasons, claim 11 discloses a method for fast image fetching and processing, comprising the steps of providing a host computer having a buffer, a driver, a control key configuration file, and an application program associated with said control key configuration file. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable over Os et al. Dependent claims 12-17, and 20-21 are

patentable over the applied reference for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11 as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Os et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because dependent claim 8 is patentable over the applied reference for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 as well as on its own merits. Dependent claims 18 and 19 are patentable over the applied reference for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11 as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP

Kenneth M. Berner

Kenneth M. Berner
Registration No. 37,093

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: March 9, 2005
KMB/jd